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## PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT COVER SHEET (Small Entity)

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TITLE OF THE INVENTION (280 characters max)					
IDENTIFICATION OF THE CANDIDA ALBICANS ESSENTIAL FUNGAL SPECIFIC GENES CaKRE5, CaALR1 AND CaCDC24 AND USE THEREOF IN ANTIFUNGAL DRUG DISCOVERY					
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Respectfully submitted,

SIGNATURE 

Date 05/03/1999

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**TITLE OF THE INVENTION**

IDENTIFICATION OF THE CANDIDA ALBICANS  
ESSENTIAL FUNGAL SPECIFIC GENES *CaKRE5*, *CaALR1* AND  
*CaCDC24* AND USE THEREOF IN ANTIFUNGAL DRUG DISCOVERY

5

## **FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates to the identification of novel essential fungal specific genes isolated in the yeast pathogen, *Candida albicans*, specifically CaKRE5, CaALR1 and CaCDC24, and particularly to their structural and functional relatedness to their *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* counterparts. More specifically the invention relates to the use of CaKRE5, CaALR1 and CaCDC24 in fungal diagnosis and antifungal drug discovery.

## 15 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Opportunistic fungi, including *Candida albicans*, *Aspergillus fumigatus*, *Cryptococcus neoformans*, and *Pneumocystis carinii*, are a rapidly emerging class of microbial pathogens, which cause systemic fungal infection or "mycosis" in patients whose immune system is weakened. *Candida* spp. rank as the predominant genus of fungal pathogens, accounting for approx. 8% of all bloodstream infections in hospitals today. Alarmingly, the incidence of life-threatening *C. albicans* infections or "candidiasis" have risen sharply over the last two decades, and ironically, the single greatest contributing factor to the prevalence of mycosis in hospitals today is modern medicine itself. Standard medical practices such as organ transplantation, chemotherapy and radiation therapy, suppress the immune system and make patients highly susceptible to fungal infection. Modern diseases, most notoriously, AIDS, also contribute to

this growing occurrence of fungal infection. In fact, *Pneumocystis carinii* infection is the number one cause of mortality for AIDS victims.

Treatment of fungal infection is hampered by the lack of safe and effective antifungal drugs. Antimycotic compounds used today; namely polyenes (amphotericin B) and azole-based derivatives (fluconazole), are of limited efficacy due to the nonspecific toxicity of the former and emerging resistance to the latter. Resistance to fluconazole has increased dramatically throughout the decade particularly in *Candida* and *Aspergillus* spp.

10 Clearly, new antimycotic compounds must be developed to combat fungal infection and resistance. Part of the solution depends on the elucidation of new antifungal drug targets (ie. molecules who's chemical inactivation/disruption results in cell death) distinct from that of current antifungal drugs which act by inactivating 15 membrane/ergosterol composition. The identification of genes expressing proteins essential to cell viability in a broad spectrum of fungi, and absent in humans, serve as novel antifungal drug targets to which rational drug screening can be employed. In this way, drug screening can identify specific antifungal compounds that inactivate 20 essential and fungal-specific genes, thereby mimicking the validated effect of the gene disruption.

A major advance in the study of pathogenesis and antifungal drug development comes from genome sequencing projects recently completed for the bakers yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and recently under way in *C. albicans*. Although *S. cerevisiae* is not itself pathogenic, it is closely related taxonomically to opportunistic pathogens including *C. albicans*. Consequently, many of the genes identified and studied in *S. cerevisiae* lend valuable insight into the identification and functional analysis of homologous genes present in the wealth of

sequence information provided by the Stanford *C. albicans* genome project (<http://candida.stanford.edu>), accelerating the isolation of *C. albicans* genes which may participate in the process of pathogenicity and cell viability.

5 Another dramatic advance from which antifungal drug discovery will benefit comes from the *S. cerevisiae* gene disruption consortium, in which the entire genome is being systematically disrupted ([http://sequence-www.stanford.edu/group/yeastdeletion\\_project/](http://sequence-www.stanford.edu/group/yeastdeletion_project/)) identification of all essential genes in this organism will enable strong  
10 predictions to be made as to which genes in *C. albicans* are similarly essential for cell viability.

15 The Bussey laboratory is a prominent contributor to the *S. cerevisiae* functional genomics project and has begun to apply this information to identifying potential antifungal drug targets in *C. albicans* (1). We have continued this approach to clone additional genes known to be essential for viability in *S. cerevisiae* and directly test whether an identical phenotype is observed in *C. albicans*. Such genes which are found to be essential in *C. albicans* serve as validated  
20 antifungal drug targets and provide novel reagents in antifungal drug screening programs.

There thus remains a need to identify essential fungal specific genes in *Candida albicans* and to use such genes in the discovery of drugs specifically directed against fungal pathogens.

25 The present invention seeks to meet these and other needs.

The present description refers to a number of documents, the content of which is herein incorporated by reference.

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## **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

The invention concerns essential fungal specific genes in *Candida albicans* and their use in antifungal drug discovery.

The present invention further relates to Identification and disruption of the *Candida albicans* fungal specific genes, *CaKRE5*, *CaALR1*, and *CaCDC24* revealing structural and functional relatedness to their *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* counterparts, and validates their utility in fungal diagnosis and antifungal drug discovery.

In accordance with the present invention, full length clones of *CaKRE5*, *Ca CDC24* and *CaALR1* using available fragments of *C. albicans* DNA were isolated by Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) to amplify genomic DNA derived from *C. albicans*. The PCR products were radiolabeled and used to probe the *C. albicans* genomic library by colony hybridization. DNA sequencing revealed complete open reading frames of *CaKRE5*, *Ca CDC24* and *CaALR1* sharing statistically significant homology to their *S. Cerevisiae* counterparts namely *KRE5*, *CDC24* and *ALR1* all of which have met several criteria expected for potential antifungal drug targets.

20 In accordance with the present invention, disruption of  
CaKRE5, CaCDC24 and CaALR1 was performed. The disruption  
plasmids were digested and transformed into *C. albicans* strain CA1.  
Southern blot analysis confirmed that the aforementioned genes are  
essential in *C. albicans*.

According to another aspect of the present invention,  
25 CaKRE5, CaCDC24 and CaALR1 were used in antifungal screening assays which confirmed their potential to screen for novel antifungal compounds.

While US Patent 5,194,600 claims the use of the *S. cerevisiae* *KRE5* gene. A number of observations from fungal biology

make it far from obvious as to the presence or role of such a gene in a pathogenic yeast, and whether it would be essential or otherwise have utility as an antifungal target. These observations are listed below.

5                   a) A related gene, *GPT1*, in the yeast *S. pombe* is not essential, is thought to be involved in protein folding, fails to complement the *S. cerevisiae* *kre5* mutant, and fails to reduce b-(1,6)-glucan polymer levels in this yeast.

10                  b) The b-(1,6)-glucan polymer could be made in a different way in different yeasts.

15                  c) Genes are lost during evolution and it was not obvious that *C. albicans* retained a *KRE5* related gene. For example, the *CaKRE5* fails to complement a *S. cerevisiae* *kre5* mutant, thus no gene could be recovered by such an approach, similarly the DNA sequence of the *C. albicans* *CaKRE5* gene is sufficiently different from that of *S. cerevisiae*, that it cannot be detected by low stringency Southern hybridization with the *S. cerevisiae* *KRE5* gene as a probe.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

20                  Having thus generally described the invention, reference will now be made to the accompanying drawings, showing by way of illustration a preferred embodiment thereof, and in which:

25                  Figure 1 shows *CaKRE5* sequence and comparison to the *S. cerevisiae* *KRE5*, *Drosophila melanogaster* *UGGT1*, and *S. pombe* *GPT1* encoded proteins. (A) illustrates nucleotide and predicted amino acid sequence of *CaKRE5*. The *CaKRE5* signal peptide is underlined in bold. The ER retention sequence His-Asp-Glu-Leu (HDEL) is indicated in bold at the C-terminus. Non-canonical CTG codons encoding Ser in place of Leu are italicized. (B) shows protein

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sequence alignment between CaKre5p, Kre5p, Gpt1p, and Uggtp. Proteins are shown in single-letter amino acid code with amino acid identities shaded in black and similarities shaded in gray. Gaps introduced to improve alignment are indicated by dashes and amino acid positions are shown at the left;

Figure 2 shows *CaALR1* sequence and comparison to *S. cerevisiae* Alr1p and Alr2p. (A) illustrates nucleotide and predicted amino acid sequence of *CaALR1*. Two hydrophobic amino acid stretches predicted to serve as transmembrane domains are indicated in bold.

10 Non-canonical CTG codons are italicized. (B) shows protein sequence alignment between CaAlr1p, Alr1p, and Alr2p. Proteins are shown in single-letter amino acid code with amino acid identities shaded in black and similarities shaded in gray. Dashes indicate gaps introduced to improve alignment;

15 Figure 3 shows *CaCDC24* sequence and comparison to *CDC24* from *S. cerevisiae* and *S. pombe*. (A) illustrates nucleotide and predicted amino acid sequence of *CaCDC24*. Non-canonical CTG codons are italicized. (B) shows protein sequence alignment between CaCdc24p, *S. cerevisiae* Cdc24p, and the *S. pombe* homolog, Scd1p.

20 The CaCdc24p dbl homology domain extends from amino acids 280-500. A pleckstrin homology domain is detected from residues 500-700. Protein alignments are formed as described in Fig. 1 and 2; and

25 Figure 4 illustrates disruption of *CaKRE5*, *CaALR1*, and *CaCDC24*. Restriction maps of (A) *CaKRE5*, (B) *CaALR1*, and (C) *CaCDC24* display restriction sites pertinent to disruption strategies. The insertion position of the *hisG-URA3-hisG* disruption module relative the *CaKRE5*, *CaALR1*, and *CaCDC24* open reading frames (indicated by open arrows) is indicated as well as probes used to verify disruptions by Southern blot analysis. (D-F.) show southern blot verification of targeted

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integration of the *hisG-URA3-hisG* disruption module into *CaKRE5*, *CaALR1*, and *CaCDC24* and its precise excision after 5-FOA treatment. (D) shows genomic DNA extracted from *Candida albicans* wild-type strain, CAI-4 (lane 1), heterozygote 5 *CaKRE5/cakre5Δ::hisG-URA3-hisG* (lane 2), heterozygote *CaKRE5/cakre5Δ::hisG* after 5-FOA treatment (lane 3), and a representative transformant resulting from the second round of transformation into a *CaKRE5/cakre5Δ::hisG* heterozygote (lane 4), were digested with HindIII and analyzed using *CaKRE5*, *hisG*, and *CaURA3* probes. Asterisks identify the 1.6 kb ladder fragment that nonspecifically hybridizes to the three probes. (E) shows genomic DNA extracted from CAI-4 (lane 1), heterozygote *CaALR1/caalr1Δ::hisG-URA3-hisG* (lane 2), heterozygote *CaALR1/caalr1Δ::hisG* after 5-FOA treatment (lane 3), and a representative transformant resulting from the second round of transformation into a *CaALR1/caalr1Δ::hisG* heterozygote (lane 4), were digested with EcoRI and analyzed using *CaALR1*, *hisG*, and *CaURA3* probes. (F) shows genomic DNA extracted from CAI-4 (lane 1), heterozygote *CaCDC24/cacdc24Δ::hisG-URA3-hisG* containing the disruption module in orientation 1 (lane 2), heterozygote 10 *CaCDC24/cacdc24Δ::hisG-URA3-hisG* containing the disruption module in orientation 2 (lane 3), heterozygote *CaALR1/caalr1Δ::hisG* (orientation 1) after 5-FOA treatment (lane 4), heterozygote *CaALR1/caalr1Δ::hisG* (orientation 2) after 5-FOA treatment (lane 5) and a representative transformant resulting from the second round of transformation into a *CaALR1/caalr1Δ::hisG* (orientation 1) heterozygote 15 (lane 6), were digested with EcoRI and analyzed using *CaCDC24*, *hisG*, and *CaURA3* probes.

Other objects, advantages and features of the present invention will become more apparent upon reading of the following

non-restrictive description of preferred embodiments with reference to the accompanying drawing which is exemplary and should not be interpreted as limiting the scope of the present invention.

## 5 DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

We have identified *C. albicans* genes homologous to the essential genes *KRE5*, *CDC24*, and *ALR1* from *S. cerevisiae*. These genes participate in essential cellular functions of cell wall biosynthesis, polarized growth, and divalent cation transport, respectively. Disruption of these genes in *C. albicans* experimentally demonstrates their essential role in this pathogenic yeast. Database searches fail to identify clear homologous counterparts in mammalian genomes, supporting the utility of these genes as novel antifungal targets.

15 *KRE5*

The *S. cerevisiae* *KRE5* gene meets several criteria expected for a potential antifungal drug target. Deletion of *KRE5* confers a lethal phenotype (2). Although *KRE5*-deleted cells are known to be viable in one particular strain background, they are extremely slow growing and spontaneous extragenic suppressors are required to propagate *kre5D* cells under laboratory conditions. Genetic analyses suggest that *KRE5*, together with a number of additional *KRE* genes participates in the *in vivo* synthesis of  $\beta$ -(1,6)-glucan.  $\beta$ -(1,6)-glucan covalently cross-links or "glues" other cell surface constituents, namely  $\beta$ -(1,3)-glucan, mannan, and chitin into the final wall structure and has been shown to be essential for viability in both *S. cerevisiae* and *C. albicans* (1,2 and references therein). Moreover,  $\beta$ -(1,6)-glucan has been demonstrated to exist in a number of additional fungal classes including other yeast and filamentous *Ascomycetes*, *Basidiomycetes* and

*Oomycetes*. Importantly, however, efforts have failed to detect  $\beta$ -(1,6)-glucan in higher eukaryotes.

Consistent with a role in  $\beta$ -(1,6)-glucan biosynthesis, *in vivo* levels of this polymer are reduced substantially in *kre5-1* cells 5 versus an isogenic wild type strain, and are completely absent in several independently-suppressed *kre5* null strains (2). In addition, *kre5* mutants show a number of genetic interactions with *kre6*, another gene involved in  $\beta$ -(1,6)-glucan assembly [Shahinian and Bussey, personal communication)]. Although the biochemistry of  $\beta$ -(1,6)-glucan synthesis 10 remains poorly understood, recent studies demonstrate that cell wall mannoproteins are extensively glucosylated through  $\beta$ -(1,6) linkages and that this modification plays a central role in their anchorage within the extracellular matrix. *KRE5* plays a critical role in this process as well, as *Cwp1p*, an abundant cell wall protein which is demonstrated 15 to be highly glucosylated through  $\beta$ -(1,6)-glucan addition, is undetected in the cell wall fraction of *kre5D* cells, and instead secreted into the medium.

The predicted *KRE5* gene product offers only limited insight into a possible biochemical activity related to  $\beta$ -(1,6)-glucan 20 production. *KRE5* encodes a large secretory protein containing both an N-terminal signal peptide and C-terminal HDEL retention signal for localization to the endoplasmic reticulum. Interestingly, *Kre5p* has limited but significant homology to UDP-glucose:glycoprotein 25 glycosyltransferases (UGGT), an enzyme class participating in the "quality control" of protein folding. Such UGGT enzymes function to "flag" misfolded ER proteins by reglucosylation of N-linked GlcNAc2Man9 core oligosaccharide structures present on misfolded proteins. Proteins labelled in this way are substrates for the ER chaperonin, calnexin, which facilitates refolding of the misfolded protein. However, genetic

analyses to address the relative involvement of KRE5 in glucosylation-dependent protein folding and  $\beta$ -(1,6)-glucan biosynthesis demonstrate that the essential function of KRE5 is unrelated to protein folding, and instead relates to its role in  $\beta$ -(1,6)-glucan polymer biosynthesis (3). Although it remains to be demonstrated biochemically, KRE5 homology to glycosyltransferases likely reflects its role in the early biosynthesis of this polymer.

### **ALR1**

10 The product of the *S. cerevisiae* gene, *ALR1*, also meets several of the conditions necessary for a suitable antifungal drug target. Strains deleted of *ALR1* show limited growth with supplementary  $Mg^{+2}$  but are otherwise inviable (4). These results demonstrate that *ALR1* is essential for growth. *ALR1* encodes a 922 amino acid protein containing a highly charged N-terminal domain and two hydrophobic C-terminal regions predicted to serve as membrane spanning domains anchoring the protein at the plasma membrane. Although such a localization remains to be directly demonstrated, deposition to the cell surface makes Alr1p an attractive drug target in terms of both bioavailability and resistance issues (see Discussion). Alr1p shares substantial homology to two additional *S. cerevisiae* proteins, Alr2p (70% identity) and Ykl064p (34% identity). Both Alr1p and Alr2p share limited similarity to CorA, a *Salmonella typhimurium* protein periplasmic membrane protein involved in divalent cation transport.

15 20 25 Mammalian homologues to *ALR1* have not been detected despite extensive database searches and the gene is absent from the metazoan *Caenorhabditis elegans*.

Although *ALR1* was identified in a screen for genes that confer increased tolerance to  $Al^{+3}$  when overexpressed, biochemical

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analyses support a role for *ALR1* in the uptake system for  $Mg^{+2}$  and possibly other divalent cations.  $Mg^{+2}$  is an essential requirement for bacterial and yeast growth. Uptake of radiolabelled  $Co^{+2}$ , an analog of  $Mg^{+2}$  for uptake assays, correlates with *ALR1* activity.

5 Overexpression of *ALR1* increased  $Co^{+2}$  uptake four-fold, while deletion of *ALR1* substantially reduced uptake. As mentioned above, Alr1p shares structural and sequence similarity to CorA, an extensively characterized  $Mg^{+2}$  import protein and deletion of *ALR1* is only suppressed with the addition of supplementary  $Mg^{+2}$ .

10

#### ***CDC24***

A third potential antifungal drug target is the *S. cerevisiae* gene, *CDC24*. Accordingly, *CDC24* is essential for viability in both *S. cerevisiae* and *S. pombe* (5). *CDC24* has been 15 biochemically demonstrated to encode GDP-GTP nucleotide exchange factor (GEF) activity towards Cdc42p, a Rac/Rho-type GTPase involved in polarization of the actin cytoskeleton. Conditional alleles of *CDC24* shifted to the nonpermissive temperature lack a polarized distribution of actin, and consequentially form large, spherical, 20 unbudded cells in which the normal polarized deposition of cell wall material is disrupted. Eventually *cdc24* mutants lyse at the restrictive temperature. *CDC24*-dependent activation of *CDC42*, is also required for the activation of the pheromone response signal transduction pathway during mating, and likely participates in the activation of this 25 pathway under conditions that promote pseudohyphal development, since a downstream effector of *CDC42*, *STE20*, is required for hyphal formation. Thus *CDC24* regulates cell wall assembly and the yeast-hyphal dimorphic transition; both key cellular processes and targets being actively pursued in antifungal drug screens.

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Cdc24p localizes to the cell cortex concentrating at sites of polarized growth and interacts physically with a number of proteins including Cdc42p, Bem1p, and the heterotrimeric G protein  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$  subunits encoded by *STE4* and *STE18* respectively. Cdc24p 5 shares 24% overall identity to its *S. pombe* counterpart, Scd1p. Similar homology has not been found in mammalian database protein searches, although Cdc24p does possess limited homology to a domain of the human exchange protein, dbl, and contains a pleckstrin homology domain, common to several mammalian protein classes. Unlike this 10 limited homology to Cdc24p outside of fungi, Cdc42p conversely shares 80-85% identity to mammalian isoforms. Perhaps the fungal-specificity of *CDC24* may be due to its role in the fungal-specific processes of bud formation, pseudohyphal growth, and projection formation during mating, whereas *CDC42* performs highly conserved functions (namely 15 actin polymerization and signal transduction) common to all eukaryotes.

#### **Isolation of *CaKRE5*, *CaCDC24*, and *CaALR1*.**

To isolate full length clones of *CaKRE5*, *CaCDC24*, 20 and *CaALR1*, oligonucleotides were designed according to publicly available fragments of *C. albicans* DNA sequence. Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) using oligonucleotide pairs CAKRE5.1/CAKRE5.2, *CaCDC24*.1/*CaCDC24*.2, and *CaALR1*.1/*CaALR1*.2 to amplify genomic DNA derived from *C. albicans* strain SC5314 yielded 574, 299, and 379 25 bp products, respectively. These PCR products were  $^{32}$ P-radiolabeled and used to probe a YEp352-based *C. albicans* genomic library by colony hybridization.

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**Sequence Information**

DNA sequencing of two independent isolates representing putative *CaKRE5* and *CaALR1* clones revealed complete open reading frames sharing statistically significant homology 5 to their *S. cerevisiae* counterparts (Fig. 1, 2). DNA sequencing of multiple isolates of *CaCDC24* revealed an orf containing strong identity to *CDC24*, but predicted to be truncated at its 3' end. The 3' end of *CaCDC24* was isolated by PCR amplification using one oligonucleotide designed from 10 its most 3' sequence and a second oligonucleotide which anneals to the *YEpl352* polylinker allowing amplification of *CaCDC24* C-terminal encoding fragments from this *C. albicans* genomic library. Subcloning and DNA sequencing of a 1.0 kb PCR product completes the *CaCDC24* open reading frame and reveals its gene product to share strong 15 homology to both *Cdc24p* and *Scd1p* (Fig. 3).

***CaKRE5***

Sequence analysis reveals *CaKRE5* and *KRE5* are predicted to encode similarly-sized proteins (1447 vs 1365 amino acids; 20 166 vs 156 kDa) sharing significant homology throughout their predicted protein sequences (22% identity, 42% similarity, (Fig. 1)). Moreover, like *KRE5*, *CaKRE5* is predicted to possess an amino-terminal signal peptide required for translocation into the secretory pathway, and a C-terminal HDEL sequence which facilitates the retention of soluble secretory proteins within the endoplasmic reticulum (ER). 25 Although *CaKre5p* is more homologous to *S.pombe* and metazoan UGGT proteins throughout its C-terminal domain than to *Kre5p*, *CaKre5p* and *Kre5p*, they are more related to each other over their remaining sequence (approx. 1100 amino acids). This unique homology between the two proteins as well as a similar null phenotypes (see

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below) suggest that *CaKRE5* likely serves as the *KRE5* counterpart in *C. albicans*.

#### ***CaALR1***

5           *CaALR1* encodes a 922 amino acid residue protein sharing strong identity to both ALR1 (1.0e-180) and ALR2 (1.0e-179, (Fig.2)). Like these proteins, *CaALR1* possesses a C-terminal hydrophobic region which likely functions as two transmembrane anchoring domains ( ). *CaALR1* shares only limited homology, however, 10 to two highly homologous regions common to ALR1 and ALR2; neither the N-terminal 250 amino acids of *CaALR1* nor its last 50 amino acids C-terminal the hydrophobic domain share strong similarity to ALR1 or ALR2. In addition, *CaALR1* possesses two unique sequence extention 15 within the CorA homology region (one 38 a.a. in length, the other, 16 a.a. long) not found in either ALR1 or ALR2. Protein database searches identify a *S.pombe* hypothetical protein sharing strong homology to *CaALR1* (2.7e-107), however no similarity to higher eukaryotic proteins were detected.

20           ***CaCDC24***

Sequence analysis of the *CaCDC24* gene product reveals extensive homology to both *Cdc24p* (3.8e-97) and *Scd1p* (1.0e-59, Fig.3) throughout their entire open reading frames. Although substantial similarity exists between *CaCdc24p* (and both *Cdc24p* and 25 *Scd1p*) and a large number of metazoan proteins (upto 1.8e-13), in each case this homology is restricted to either the nucleotide exchange domain, (dbl domain), or a domain common to signal transduction components (PH domain). Extensive database searches reveal that both the N-terminal (250 a.a.) and C-terminal (300 a.a.) regions of

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CaCdc24p are exclusively conserved within this fungal family of homologs.

#### **Disruption of CaKRE5, CaALR1, and CaCDC24**

##### **5      Experimental strategy**

Disruption of *CaKRE5* was performed using the *hisG-CaURA3-hisG* "URA-blaster" cassette constructed by Fonzi and Irwin and standard molecular biology techniques (1, and references within). A *cakre5::hisG-CaURA3-hisG* disruption plasmid was 10 constructed by deleting a 780bp BamH1-BgIII DNA fragment from the library plasmid isolate, pCaKRE5, and replacing it with a 4.0 kb BamHI-BgIII DNA fragment containing the *hisG-CaURA3-hisG* module from pCUB-6. This *CaKRE5* disruption plasmid is deleted of DNA 15 sequence encoding amino acids 971-1231, which encompasses approx. 50% of the UGGT homology domain. This *CaKRE5* disruption plasmid was then digested with SphI prior to transformation.

A *CaALR1* disruption allele was constructed by first subcloning a 7.0 kp *CaALR1* BamHI-Sall fragment from YEp352-library isolate pCaALR1 into PBSKII+. A 841 bp *CaALR1* HindIII-BgIII fragment 20 was then replaced with a 4.0 kb *hisG-CaURA3-hisG* DNA fragment digested with HindIII and BamHI from PBSK-*hisG-CaURA3-hisG*. This *CaALR1* disruption allele, which is lacking DNA sequences encoding amino acids 20-299, was digested using BamHI and Sall prior to transformation.

25      A *CaCDC24* insertion allele was constructed by first deleting a 0.9 kb KpnI fragment from YEp352-library isolate pCaCDC24 to remove *CaCDC24* upstream sequence containing BamHI and BgIII restriction sites which obstruct the insertion of the *hisG-CaURA3-hisG* module. The 4.0 kb BamHI-BgIII *hisG-CaURA3-hisG* fragment from

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pCUB-6 was then ligated into a unique *Bgl*III site in p*CaCDC24*-*Kpn*1D. The resulting plasmid, p *cacdc24::hisG-CaURA3-hisG*, possessing an insertion allele within *CaCDC24* at amino acid position 306, was digested with *Kpn*I and *Sall* prior to transformation.

5           *CaKRE5*, *CaALR1*, and *CaCDC24* disruption plasmids were digested as described above, and transformed into *C. albicans* strain CAI4 using the lithium acetate method. Transformants were selected as *Ura*<sup>+</sup> prototrophs on YNB + Casa plates. Heterozygous disruptants were identified by PCR (data not shown), verified by

10          Southern blot (see below), and prepared for a second round of gene disruption by selecting for 5-FOA resistance. To assess the null phenotype of each gene, a second round of transformations using heterozygous *CaKRE5/cakre5*, *CaALR1/caalr1*, and *CaCDC24/cacdc24* *ura3*<sup>-</sup> strains were performed as outlined above.

15          Correct integration of the *hisG-CaURA3-hisG* module into *CaKRE5*, *CaALR1*, and *CaCDC24* and *CaURA3* excision from heterozygous strains were verified by Southern blot analysis using the following probes:

20          (1a) a 1.25 kb *Xba*I-*Kpn*1 fragment digested from p*CaKRE5* containing N-terminal coding sequence of *CaKRE5*;

              (1b) a 1.7 kb PCR product containing coding sequence from amino acid 404 and 3' flanking sequences of *CaALR1*;

              (1c) a 778 bp PCR product containing *CaCDC24* coding sequence from amino acids 154-430;

25          (2) a 783 bp PCR product which contains the entire *CaURA3* coding region;

              (3) a 898bp PCR product encompassing the entire *Salmonella typhimurium* *hisG* gene. Genomic DNA from *CaKRE5*-disrupted strains were digested with *Hind*III and *Eco*R1 was

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used to digest genomic DNA from *CaALR1* and *CaCDC24*-disrupted strains.

## Results

5 Southern blot analysis revealed that the  
cakre5::hisG-CaURA3-hisG disruption fragment integrated precisely into  
the wild type locus (Fig 4D) after the first round of transformations.  
Both a 5.0 kb wild type band and a 9.0 kb band diagnostic of the  
CaKRE5-disrupted allele were detected using the CaKRE5 probe (Fig  
10 4D). The 9.0 kb band was also detected with both the *hisG* and *CaURA3*  
probes, confirming disruption of the first *CaKRE5* copy. Successful  
excision of the *CaURA3* gene by growth on 5-FOA was validated by 1)  
a predicted shift in size of the *CaKRE5* disruption fragment from 9.0 kb  
to 6.0 kb when probed with either *CaKRE5* or *hisG* probes and 2) the  
15 inability of the *CaURA3* probe to recognize this fragment and the resulting  
strain having reverted to *ura3-* prototrophy.

To determine whether *CaKRE5* is essential, the transformation was repeated in two independently-derived *CaKRE5/cakre5::hisG, ura3-/ura3-* heterozygous strains. A total of 36 Ura+ colonies (24 small and 12 large colonies after 3 days of growth) were analyzed by PCR using oligonucleotides which amplify a 2.5 kb wild-type fragment that spans the BamHI and BgIII sites bordering the disrupted region. All colonies were determined to contain this 2.5 kb wild-type fragment but lacking the 2.8 kb *cakre5::hisG* allele, consistent with the *cakre5::hisG-CaURA3-hisG* module integrating at the disrupted locus. Southern blot analysis using the 3 different probes independently confirmed 4 such Ura+ transformants as *bona fide* *CaKRE5/cakre5::hisG-CaURA3-hisG* heterozygotes. If disruption of both copies of the gene were not essential then 50% of the recovered

disruptants are expected to integrate into the *CaKRE5* locus giving homologous disruptants and 50% being heterozygous. For example, this is the case when disrupting the second wild-type allele of *CaKRE1*; a gene shown not to be essential in *S. cerevisiae*. An equal number of heterozygous and homozygous strains result from this second round of transformations (data not shown). However, the absence of any homozygous *CaKRE5* disrupted transformants being detected among the 36 Ura<sup>+</sup> transformants analyzed supports our contention that *CaKRE5* is essential in *C. albicans*.

### **CaALR1**

Southern blot analysis of *CaALR1* first round transformants confirmed correct integration of the *caalr1::hisG-CaURA3-hisG* disruption module as judged by an appropriately sized disruption band of 5.7 kb, and a wild-type fragment predicted to be >9.0 kb detected by the *CaALR1* probe (Fig 4E). This 5.7 kb band was also detected with both the *hisG* and *CaURA3* probes, confirming disruption of one copy of *CaALR1*. Southern blotting confirmed excision of the *CaURA3* gene by growth on 5-FOA as the *CaALR1* probe detected an expected 5.0 kb fragment due to the absence of *CaURA3*. Moreover, this 5 kb *caalr::hisG* band was also detected using the *hisG* probe but not with the *CaURA3* probe (Fig. 4E).

25 Determination of the *CaALR1* null phenotype was performed as described for *CaKRE5*. However, as it has been reported that the inviability of the *ALR1* null mutation in *S. cerevisiae* can be partially suppressed by supplementing the medium with  $MgCl_2$ , we performed the second transformation by selecting for Ura+ colonies on 500mM  $MgCl_2$ -containing medium as well as standard Casa plates.

35+ colonies of various size (22 from  $MgCl_2$ -supplemented plates) were analyzed by PCR to confirm *caalr1::hisG*-*CaURA3-hisG* integration. The second allele from each of these 35 transformants was determined to be wild-type by PCR using oligos that span the insertion and produce

5 a wild-type 1.6 kb product and not the slightly larger 1.75 kb product of the *caalr::hisG* allele (Note, this was done 2X/run far in 2% agarose/and alongside *Caalr::hisG* control genomic DNA which did run noticeably slower than the 35 unknowns). Southern blot analysis using the 3 different probes independently confirmed 4 such Ura+ transformants as

10 *CaALR1/caalr1::hisG*-*CaURA3-hisG* heterozygotes. Our inability to identify a homozygous *CaALR1* disrupted transformant among the 35 Ura+ colonies analyzed, supports the claim that *CaALR1* is essential in *C. albicans*.

15 ***CaCDC24***

Southern blot analysis of *CaCDC24* first round transformants using the *CaCDC24* gene probe confirmed correct integration of the *cacdc24::hisG*-*CaURA3-hisG* insertion fragment as both 2.55 kb and 3.7 kb fragments, diagnostic of the insertional allele, were detected in addition to the 2.2 kb wild-type *CaCDC24* fragment (Fig. 4F). Moreover, both 2.55 kb and 3.7 kb fragments were detected using *CaURA3* and *hisG* probes. Excision of *CaURA3* from the resulting heterozygote was verified by 1) detecting a single 3.3 kb fragment unique to 5-FOA resistant colonies using the *CaCDC24* or *hisG* probes, and

20 2) the failure to detect this band using the *CaURA3* probe. (Fig. 4F).

25

A second round of transformations using the above described *CaCDC24* heterozygote was performed. 28+ colonies of various size were analyzed by PCR to confirm *cacdc24::hisG*-*CaURA3-hisG* integration. The second allele from each

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of these 28 transformants was determined to be wild-type by PCR using oligos that span the insertion and produce a wild-type 0.5 kb product and not the 1.6 kb product of the *caalr::hisG* allele. Southern blot analysis using the 3 different probes independently confirmed 4 such

5 *Ura*<sup>+</sup> transformants as *CaCDC24/cacdc24::hisG-CaURA3-hisG* heterzygotes. Our inability to identify a homozygous *CaCDC24* disrupted transformant among these 28 *Ura*<sup>+</sup> colonies analyzed, strongly suggests that *CaCDC24* is essential in *C. albicans* like it is known to be in *S. cerevisiae*.

10 The present invention is illustrated in further detail by the following non-limiting examples.

#### EXAMPLE 1

##### *In vivo* Screening Methods for Specific Antifungal Agents

15 *Candida albicans* strains with reduced or elevated levels of the *CaKRE5*, *CaALR1*, or *CaCDC24* gene product permit screens for differential sensitivity or resistance to a drug or compounds from natural or artificial sources that inhibit these proteins. Compounds that show such a differential inhibition of growth of such *Candida albicans* strains would be specific inhibitors of *CaKRE5*, *CaALR1*, or 20 *CaCDC24*-dependent processes and can be further evaluated as specific antifungal drugs.

25 Expression of a functional *CaKRE5*, *CaALR1*, or *CaCDC24* in a *S.cerevisiae* *kre5*, *alr1* and *cdc24* mutant respectively, allows replacement of the *S. cerevisiae* gene with that of its *C. albicans* counterpart and thus permits screening for specific inhibitors in a *S. cerevisiae* background where the additional experimental tractability of the organism permits additional sophistication of the screens. For example, drugs which block *CaKre5p* in *S. cerevisiae* confer

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K1 killer toxin resistance, and this phenotype can be used to screen for such compounds. Similarly, drugs/compounds could be screened which inactivate heterologously-expressed *CaCDC24* and consequently disrupt its association with *Rsr1p* or *Cdc42p* in a two hybrid assay.

5     Alternatively, *CaCDC24* function could be monitored in a screen for compounds able to disrupt pseudohyphal formation in a *CaCDC24*-dependent manner. A whole cell drug screening assay based on *CaALR1* function could similarly be envisaged. For example, *CaALR1*-dependent influx of  $^{57}\text{Co}^{2+}$  in a *S. cerevisiae alr1* mutant suppressed by supplementary  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  could be monitored to identify compounds which specifically block the import of divalent cations.

10

#### EXAMPLE II

##### *In vitro* Screening Methods for Specific Antifungal Agents

15     1. Use of an *in vitro* assay to synthesize  $\beta$ -(1,6)-glucan.

In such an assay the incorporation of labelled glucose from UDP-glucose into a product that can be immunoprecipitated or immobilized with  $\beta$ -(1,6)-glucan antibodies is measured. The specificity of this synthesis can be established by showing its dependence on *CaKre5p*, and its digestion with  $\beta$ -(1,6)-glucanase.

20     Drugs which block this *in vitro* synthesis reaction, block  $\beta$ -(1,6)-glucan synthesis and are candidates for antifungal drugs, some may inhibit *Kre5p*, others may inhibit other steps in the synthesis of this polymer.

25     2. Use of a specific *in vitro* assay for *CaKre5p*.

*CaKre5p* has amino-acid sequence similarities to UDP-glucose glycoprotein glucosyltransferases. The *CaKre5p* protein can be produced heterogeneously or from *Candida albicans* and an

assay devised using a range of substrates that are subset of glycoproteins that are in the wall with GPI modifications that are  $\beta$ -(1,6)-glucosylated. These acceptor substrates would be obtained from a strain of *S. cerevisiae* that is a *kre5* disruption and have failed 5 to receive the glucose from the UDP-glucose donor to the acceptor substrate *in vivo*. Such an assay measuring CaKre5p dependent protein glycosylation can be used to screen for inhibitors of CaKre5p. Alternatively, it would be possible to screen for compounds that bind to immobilised CaKre5p. Such inhibitors and Kre5p-binding proteins 10 would be candidates for drugs specifically inhibiting this fungal-specific process.

CDC24 has been biochemically demonstrated to encode a GDP-GTP nucleotide exchange factor (GEF) required to convert Cdc42p to a GTP-bound state. An *in vitro* assay to 15 measure CaCdc24p-dependent activation of Cdc42p could be used to screen for inhibitors of CaCDC24p. This could be accomplished by directly measuring the percentage of GTP versus GDP bound by Cdc42p. Alternatively, Cdc24p function could be determined indirectly by measuring Cdc42p-GTP dependent activation of Ste20p kinase 20 activity.

### EXAMPLE III

#### **The use of CaALR1, CaKRE5, and CaCDC24 in PCR-based diagnosis of fungal infection**

25 Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) based assays provide a number of advantages over traditional serological testing methodologies in diagnosing fungal infection. Issues of epidemiology, fungal resistance, reliability, sensitivity, speed, and strain identification are limited by the spectrum of primers and probes available. The

CaKRE5, CaALR1, and CaCDC24 gene sequences enable the design of novel primers of potential clinical use. In addition, as CaALR1 is thought to localize to the plasma membrane and extend out into the periplasmic space/cell wall, this extracellular domain could act as a serological antigen to which antibodies could be raised and used in serological diagnostic assays.

#### EXAMPLE IV

##### **Plasmid-based reporter constructs which measure Kre5p, Alr1p, or Cdc24p inactivation**

Transcriptional profiling of *kre5*, *alr1*, and *cdc24* mutants in *S. cerevisiae* to identify genes which are transcriptionally induced/repressed specifically under conditions of *KRE5*, *ALR1*, or *CDC24* inactivation or overproduction. The identification of promoter elements from genes responsive to the loss of *KRE5*, *ALR1*, or *CDC24* activity offers practical utility in drug screening assays to identify compounds which specifically inactivate these targets. For example, a chimeric reporter gene (eg. *lacZ*, *GFP*,) whose expression would be induced/repressed by such a promoter would reflect activity of Kre5p, and could be used for high-throughput screening of compound libraries. Further a group of promoters showing such regulated expression would allow a specific fingerprint or transcriptional profile to be built for the inhibition or overproduction of the *ALR1*, *CDC24*, or *KRE5* genes. This would allow a reporter set to be constructed that could be used for high-throughput screening of compound libraries giving a specific tool for screening compounds which inhibit these gene products.

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### CONCLUSION

We have identified the *CaKRE5*, *CaALR1*, and *CaCDC24* genes from *C. albicans* and validated their utility as novel antifungal drug targets by demonstrating their essential nature by gene disruption. Although the precise function of their gene products remains to be determined, we have shown that these proteins are essential for viability. Genome database searches fail to detect significant homology to these genes in metazoans, suggesting that screening for compounds which inactivate these fungal-specific drug targets are less likely to display toxicity to human cells. *KRE5* and *CDC24* are unique genes in *S. cerevisiae* and irrespective of being members of gene families in *C. albicans*, they retain an essential function. *Alr1p1* is part of a 3 member gene family in *S. cerevisiae*, and sequence similarity to *Alr2p* has been identified (Stanford Sequencing Project), however the essential role of *CaALR1p* in *C. albicans* and their predicted extracellular location offers the potential to screen for novel antifungal compounds which need not enter the cell, circumventing issues of compound delivery and drug resistance.

We have shown that the *Candida albicans* *CaKRE5* gene is essential; has a protein product with significant sequence similarity to *S. cerevisiae* *Kre5p* at the gene product level, and is involved in  $\beta$ -(1,6)-glucan synthesis as there is a reduced amount of the polymer in a heterozygous *CaKRE5/Cakre5* disruption relative to the *CaKRE5/CaKRE5* homozygote, and the phenotype of the heterozygous *CaKRE5/Cakre5* disruption mutant cells resembles that of *kre5* deletions in *S. cerevisiae*, clumps of swollen cells with cytokinesis and cell separation defects (data not shown).

Thus, in the present invention we reduce to practice the use of *CaKRE5*, *CaALR1*, and *CaCDC24* in *Candida albicans* as

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essential antifungal targets, and extend in a non-obvious way the use of these genes to a pathogenic fungal species as targets for screening for drugs specifically directed against fungal pathogens.

Although the present invention has been described hereinabove by way of preferred embodiments thereof, it can be modified, without departing from the spirit and nature of the subject invention as defined in the appended claims.

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**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

wherein a potential drug is selected when the activity of said protein in the presence of said candidate drug is measurably different than in the absence thereof.

5                   6. A method of selecting a drug that modulates the activity of a protein encoded by said *CaALR1* of claim 3 comprising:

a) incubating a candidate drug with said protein;

b) determining the activity of said protein in the presence of said candidate drug,

10                  wherein a potential drug is selected when the activity of said protein in the presence of said candidate drug is measurably different than in the absence thereof.

15                  7. A method of selecting a drug that modulates the activity of a protein encoded by said *CaCDC24* of claim 3 comprising:

a) incubating a candidate drug with said protein;

b) determining the activity of said protein in the presence of said candidate drug,

20                  wherein a potential drug is selected when the activity of said protein in the presence of said candidate drug is measurably different than in the absence thereof.

25                  8. An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting of 10 to 50 nucleotides which specifically hybridizes to RNA or DNA of claim 1, 2, 3 or 4, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is or is complementary to a nucleotide sequence consisting of at least 10 consecutive nucleotides from said nucleic acid sequence set forth in Figures 1A, 2A or 3A.

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9. A method of detecting *CaKRE5*, *CaALR1* or *CaCDC24* in a sample comprising:

a) contacting said sample with a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 8, under conditions such that hybridization occurs; and

5 b) detecting the presence of said molecule bound to said *CaKRE5*, *CaALR1* or *CaCDC24* nucleic acid.

10. A purified *CaKRE5* polypeptide or an epitope-bearing portion thereof.

10 11. A purified *CaALR1* polypeptide or an epitope-bearing portion thereof.

15 12. A purified *CaCDC24* polypeptide or an epitope-bearing portion thereof.

13. The purified *CaKRE5* polypeptide according to claim 10, comprising an amino acid sequence at least 90% identical to the amino acid sequence as set forth in Figure 1B.

20 14. The purified *CaALR1* polypeptide according to claim 11, comprising an amino acid sequence at least 90% identical to the amino acid sequence as set forth in Figure 2B.

25 15. The purified *CaCDC24* polypeptide according to claim 12, comprising an amino acid sequence at least 90% identical to the amino acid sequence as set forth in Figure 3B.

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16. An antibody having specific binding affinity to the polypeptide or epitope-bearing portion thereof according to claim 10.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention relates to the identification and disruption  
of essential fungal specific genes isolated in the yeast pathogen *Candida*  
5 *albicans* namely *CaKRE5*, *CaALR1* and *CaCDC24* and to the use thereof  
in antifungal diagnosis and as essential antifungal targets in a fungal  
species for antifungal drug discovery.

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VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY  
STATUS (37 CFR 1.9(f) AND 1.27 (d)) - NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONDocket No  
11168.98

Serial No.	Filing Date	Patent No.	Issue Date
Applicant/ Patentee: Terry ROEMER et al			
Invention: IDENTIFICATION OF THE CANDIDA ALBICANS ESSENTIAL FUNGAL SPECIFIC GENES CaKRE5, CaALR1 AND CaCD24 AND USE THEREOF IN ANTI-FUNGAL DRUG DISCOVERY.			

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Dr. Alex NAVARRE

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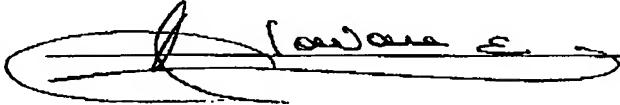
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Figure 1A.

1 TCGGAATGAAACCAAGTCTTCTAGCTGATTCAAAATTAACTAACCTATCGGCTGCTCCAAAGGATCTTAGACAGGCAATTCTAGAGGGGCCACAGCGCTGGTTC  
 110 AGAGATTCATAATGTTCTAGTGAAGAACCGAAAGTGTCTTCCAAAGGGAGGAGTACGACACACTCAGGTTGAGCTTATCGGCTCCACAGAGGTAAACCTTGTG  
 225 GACATTCTCTATGATATCATGTTAACATCGGACTGAGAAACTCCATCAACCTGATAACCCGAAACGCCGACATCTCCACAGGATTAATGTTACAGATCTAC  
 340 AGAAGACATAGAGGCCACATCACCGAGGTAATATGTTAATATAAGGCAATATATGCCATGTTAATCTCTTAACTGAGTGTCTCTGCTCAGGATT  
 455 AGGCCCCGAAAAAAATATGTTGGAGGCTGTTATTAGTCTACTCTTCTCTCTGCTAACAGAACCTTAACTGCTTCTACTGTTCTGCTCACACTAGCACAAGCTCTGAA  
 Met Ser Phe Ala Arg Tyr Ile Tyr Tyr Thr Ile Ala Val Ala Val Leu Leu Asp Phe Val Lys Ala Thr Glu Asn Asn Asp Phe Lys  
 570 ATG CCA TTT GCA AGG TAT ATC TAC TAC ACC ATT CGG GTT OCT GTT TTA TTA AAT TTT GTC AAA OCT ACT GAA AAT AAC AAT TTT AAA  
 Leu Glu Val Glu Ala Ser Thr Ser Asn Ile Asp Phe Leu Pro Ser Phe Ile Val Glu Ala Gly Phe Asn Asp Ser Leu Tyr Glu  
 657 CTT CGA CTT GAA CGC TCA TCC AGC ATT ATT CAT TCT CTT CCT ACC ATT ATA CGC CCC ATC CGT CCT ART GAC TCT TTG TAC GAA  
 Glu Thr Ile Glu Thr Ile Phe Gly Leu Gly Asp Thr Ile Val Glu Val Glu Leu Glu Asp Asp Ala Ser Asp Glu Ile Tyr Ser Thr Val  
 744 CAG ACA ATT GAA ACA ATT TTT GGT TTA GGA GAC ACT GAA GTG GAA GAT GAT OCT TCA GAT CAA GAA ATA TAT TCT ACC GTG  
 Ile Asn Ser Leu Gly Leu Thr Asp Glu Asp Leu Asp Phe Ile Asn Phe Asp Leu Thr Asn Lys Lys His Thr Pro Arg Ile Ala Ala  
 831 ATC AAC TCA TTA CGG TTA ACA GAT CAA GAT TTG GAT TTT ATT AAT TTT GAT TTA ACC AAC AAA CAT ACA CCA AGA ATC GCA GCC  
 His Tyr Asp His Tyr Ser Asp Val Leu Thr Lys Phe Gly Asp Arg Leu Lys Ser Glu Cys Ala Lys Asp Ser Phe Gly Asn Ala Val  
 918 CAT TAC GAT CAC TAT TCT GAT CTT CTA ACT AAC TTT GGC GAT CGA CTC AAA AGT GAA TGT GCA AAA GAC TCT TTT GGG AAT GCA GTG  
 Glu Thr Lys Asn Gly Glu Ile Glu Thr Trp Leu Leu Tyr Asp Lys Ile Tyr Cys Ser Ala Asn Asp Leu Phe Ala Leu Arg Thr  
 1005 GAA ACC AAA AAT GGT CAA ATT CAA ACG TGG TTA CTA TAT AAC GAT AAG ATA TAT TGT TCG GCT ATT GAT TTG TTT GCA TTA CGA ACT  
 Asp Leu Ser Ser His Ser Thr Leu Leu Phe Asp Arg Ile Ile Gly Lys Ser Lys Asp Ala Pro Leu Val Ile Leu Tyr Gly Ser Pro  
 1092 GAT TTG ACT TCT CAT TCT ACA CTT TTT GAT AGG ATT ATT CGA AAA TCA AAA GAT GCA CCT TTG GTG ATT TTA TAT GGA ACC CGG  
 Thr Glu Glu Leu Thr Lys Asp Phe Leu Ile Leu Tyr Pro Asp Ala Lys Ala Gly Lys Leu Lys Phe Val Thr Arg Tyr Ile Pro  
 1179 ACT GAG GAA CTG ACT AAA GAT TTT CTT AAA ATA TTG TAT CCA GAT GCA AAG GCT GGA AAA TTA AAG TTT GTA TTG AGG TAC ATT CCA  
 Leu Glu Ile Lys Lys Leu Asp Ser Ile Ser Gly Tyr Glu Val Ser Leu Lys Met Glu Ilys Tyr Asp Tyr Ser Gly Ala Glu Gly Asn  
 1266 CTC CGA ATC AAA AAA CTG CAC TCA ATT TCT CGA TAC GGT CGA TCA TTG AAA ATG GAA AAG TAT GAT TAT CCT GGT GCA CGA GAA AAT  
 Pro Lys Tyr Asp Leu Ser Arg Asp Phe Thr Arg Ile Asn Asp Ser Glu Leu Val Leu Val Asn Glu His Ser Tyr Glu Leu  
 1353 CCA AAG TAT GAT TTG ACT CGA GAT TTC ACC AGA ATT AAT GAC TCG CAA GAG TTG GTC CTG GTC AAT GAA AAA CAT TCG TAT GAA CTT  
 Gly Val Lys Leu Thr Ser Phe Ile Leu Ser Asn Arg Tyr Lys Ser Thr Lys Tyr Asp Leu Leu Asp Thr Ile Leu Thr Asn Phe Pro  
 1440 GGT GTT AAA TTG ACT TCA TTC ATA TCA TCC AAT CGT TAC AAG AGT ACT AAA TAT GAC CTT TTA GAT AGC ATT TTA ACC AAC ATT CCC  
 Lys Phe Ile Pro Tyr Ile Ala Arg Leu Pro Lys Leu Leu Asn His Glu Lys Val Lys Ser Lys Val Leu Gly Asn Glu Asp Ile Gly  
 1527 AAG TTT ATT CCT TAC ATT GCA CGA TTA CCA AAA TTA CTA AAT CAT GAA AAA GTT AAA TCC AAA TTG CTT CGA AAT GAA GAT ATA CGG  
 Leu Ser Glu Asp Ser Tyr Glu Ile Asn Gly Ser Pro Ile Asn Pro Leu Glu Leu Asp Ile Tyr Asn Leu Gly Thr Arg Ile  
 1614 CTA TCT CAA GAC TCC TAC CGC ATA TAT ATC AAC GGT TCC CCA ATA ATT CCA CTA GAG TTA GAT ATT TAC ATT CTA GGT ACC AGC ATA  
 Lys Glu Glu Leu Glu Thr Val Lys Asp Leu Val Lys Leu Gly Phe Asp Thr Val Glu Ala Lys Leu Ile Ala Lys Phe Ala Leu  
 1701 AAC GAG GAA TTA CAG ACT GTG AAA GAT TTA GTG AAA CTT CGA TTT GAT ACC GTC CAA CGA AAG CTC TTG ATA GCA AAA TTT GGT TTA  
 Leu Ser Ala Val Lys Glu Thr Glu Phe Arg Asp Gly Asp Thr Leu Met Gly Asn Asn Glu Asn Arg Phe Lys Val Tyr Glu Asn Glu  
 1783 CTT CGA CCT GTT AAA CAA CAA TTT CGA AAT CGC AAT ACA TTA ATG GGT AAC AAT GAA ATT AGA ATT AGA ATT AAA TTG TAT GAA ATT GAA  
 Phe Lys Lys Gly Ser Ser Glu Lys Gly Cys Leu Phe Asp Asn Asn Ile Glu Leu Asp Asn Thr Phe Lys Glu Tyr Thr Thr Tyr Asp  
 1875 TTT AAC AAG GGT ACT TCA GAA AAC OCT CGG GTC TTG TTT TCA ATT AAC ATT GAA TTA CGA AAC AAC ATA TTG AAC GAG TAC ACC ACT GAT  
 Arg Glu Glu Ala Tyr Leu Gly Val Gly Ser His Lys Leu Lys Pro Asn Glu Ile Pro Leu Leu Lys Glu Asn Ile His Asp Leu Ile  
 1962 CCT GAG GAG GCA TAT TTA CGA GTT CCT TCT CAT AAA CTT AAC CCA ATT CCC TTA TTG AAA GAG AAC ATC CAT GAT TPA ATT  
 Phe Ala Leu Asn Phe Gly Asn Lys Asn Glu Leu Arg Val Phe Phe Thr Leu Ser Lys Val Ile Leu Asp Ser Gly Ile Pro Glu Glu  
 2049 TTC GCA TTA AAT TTT CGG AAC AAA AAC CAA TTG CGG GTG TTT TTC ACT TTA TCT AAC GTG ATT TTG GAC TCC GGT ATA CCT CAA CAA  
 Val Gly Val Leu Pro Val Ile Gly Asp Asp Pro Met Asp Leu Leu Ala Glu Lys Phe Tyr Trp Ile Ala Glu Lys Ser Ser Thr  
 2136 GTT CGA GTT TTG CGC GTT ATA CGA GAT GAC CGA ATA ATG GAT CGT CTC CTC CCT GGT GAG AAA ATT TAT TGT ATT GCT GAG AAA TCA ACC ACA  
 Glu Glu Ala Leu Ala Ile Leu Tyr Lys Tyr Phe Glu Ser Asn Ser Pro Asp Glu Val Asp Asp Leu Leu Asp Lys Val Glu Val Pro  
 2223 CAA GAG CGC TTA CGA ATA TTG TAT AAA TAT TTT CGA TCA AAC AGT CGA GAT GAA GTT CCT GAT GAC TTA TTA GAT AAA TTG CGA GTC CCC  
 Glu Asp Tyr Lys Val Asp Tyr Asn His Val Leu Asn Lys Phe Ser Ile Ser Thr Ala Ser Val Ile Phe Asn Gly Val Ile Tyr Asp  
 2310 GAA GAT TAT AAA CTG GAT TAT ATT CAT GTG TTA AAC AAG TTT TCT ATA TCA ACT GCT TCG GTC ATT TTC ATT GGG CCT ATT TAC GAT  
 Leu Arg Ala Pro Asp Trp Glu Ile Ala Met Ser Lys Glu Ile Ser Glu Asp Ile Ser Leu Ile Lys Thr Phe Leu Arg Glu Gly Pro  
 2397 TTA CGA CGA CGA CGA AAC TGG CGM ATT CGA ATG AGT AAA CGA ATA TCA CGG GAC ATT TCA CTT ATT AAA ACT TTC TTG CGA CGG CGA CGA  
 Ile Glu Gly Arg Leu Lys Asp Val Leu Tyr Ser Asn Ala Lys Ser Glu Arg Asn Leu Arg Ile Ile Pro Leu Glu Pro Ser Asp Ile  
 2484 ATA CGG GGT AGA TTG AAA GAT GTT CCT TCA TCC TGT ATT GCA AAA TCA CGA CGC ATT TCA CGT ATT ATA CCT CCA TTA CGA CCT ATT GAC ATT  
 Ile Tyr Lys Ile Asp Lys Glu Leu Ile Asn Asn Ser Ile Ala Phe Lys Lys Leu Asp Lys Ala Glu Gly Val Ser Gly Thr Phe  
 2571 ATT TAC AAC AAA ATC GAC ARG GAA TTA ATA AAC ATT GCA TTC AAC AGC CTA GAT AAA CGG CGM GGT GTG TCT GGA ACA ATT

Figure 1 A (continued)

TEP Leu Val Ser Asp Phe Thr Lys Ser Ala Ile Ile Thr Gln Leu Ile Asp Leu Leu Leu Lys Lys Ala Ile Gln Ile 725  
 2658 TGG CTA GTG TCG GAT TTT ACC AAC TCA GCA ATA ATT ACT CAA TTC ATA GAT TTG TTA TTG CTT CTC AAA AAC AAA GCA ATT CAG ATA  
 Arg Ile Ile Asp Thr Gly Asp Thr Asp Val Phe Gly Lys Leu Lys Thr Lys Phe Leu Thr Ala Leu Thr Asp Gly Gln Ile Asp 754  
 2745 AGA ATT ATT ATT ACT CGG GAT ACA GAT GTT TTT GGA AAA ACA AAG TTT AAA TTA ACC GCC TTA ACA ATT GGA CAA ATT GAT  
 Glu Ile Ile Glu Ile Leu Lys Ser Asn Ala Ser Ser Ala Asn Asn Asp Glu Leu Lys Lys Met Leu Glu Thr Lys Gln Leu Pro 783  
 2832 GAA ATT ATT GAG ATT TTG AAA AAA TCC AAC GCT TCA ACT GCA ATT ATT GAT GAA TTG AAA AAA ATG CTT CAG ACT AAC CAA TTA CCT  
 Ala His His Ser Phe Leu Leu Phe Asn Ser Arg Tyr Phe Arg Leu Asp Gly Asn Phe Gly Tyr Glu Glu Leu Asp Gln Ile Glu 812  
 2919 GCT CAT CAC TCT TTT TTG CTA TTC AAC TCT AGA TAT TTT AGA TTG GAT GGA ATT TTT GCA TCA CCT GAG GAA TTG GAT CAA ATT ATA GAG  
 Phe Glu Val Ser Gln Arg Leu Asn Leu Ile Pro Asp Ile Met Glu Ala Tyr Pro Asp Glu Phe Arg Ser Lys Lys Val Ser Asp Phe 841  
 3006 TTG GAA GTG TCT CAA AGA TTG AAC TTA ATC CGG GAC ATC AAC GCA TAT CCG GAT GAG TTG ACC TCG AAC GAG GTA ACT GAT TTT  
 Asn Leu Val Leu Ser Gly Leu Asp Asn Met Asp Tpp Phe Asp Leu Val Thr Ser Ile Val Thr Lys Ser Phe His Val Asp Glu Lys 870  
 3093 ATT CTG GTT TTG TCT GGA TTA GAG ATT ATG GAC TGG TTT GAT TTG GTG ACT TCC ATA GTG ACA AAA TCA TTC CAT GTC GAC GAA AAA  
 Arg Phe Ile Val Asp Val Asn Arg Phe Ser Ser Leu Asp Phe Ser Asn Ser Ile Asp Val Thr Thr Tyr Glu Glu Asn Ser 899  
 3180 AGG TTT ATT GTT GAT GAT AAC AGG TTT GAT TTT AGC TCA TTG GAT TTT TCA AAC TCC ATT GAT GTA ACC ACT TAT GAA GAA ATT AGT  
 Pro Val Asp Val Leu Ile Ile Leu Asn Pro Met Asp Glu Tyr Ser Glu Lys Leu Ile Ser Leu Val Asn Ser Ile Thr Asp Phe Leu 928  
 3267 CCA GTT GAT GTA TTA ATA ATT TTG AAC CCT ATG GAT GAA TAT TCT CAA AAA TTG ATA ACC CCT TTG ATT AGC ATT ACA GAT TTT CTG  
 Phe Leu Asn Ile Arg Ile Leu Leu Glu Pro Arg Val Asp Leu Lys Glu Glu Ile Lys Ile His Tyr Phe Tyr Arg Gly Val Tyr Pro 957  
 3354 TTC TTG AAC ATT AGA ATC TTA CTA CAA CCA AGA TTG GAT CTG AAA GAA GAG ATC AAA ATT CAC AAG TTT TAT CGT GGT GTG TAT CCT  
 Gln Pro Thr Pro Lys Phe Asp Ser Asn Gly Lys Trp Ile Gln His Tyr Ser Ala Gln Phe Glu Ser Ile Pro Ser Asn Val Thr Tyr 986  
 3441 CAA CCC ACT CCC AAA TTT GAT TCC ATT GGC AAC TAC TGG ATA CAA CAT TAT TCA CCT CAA TTT GAA ACT ATT CCA TCC ATT GTC ACC TAT  
 Ser Thr Glu Leu Asp Val Pro His Lys Trp Ile Val Val Pro Glu Leu Ser Ser Met Asp Leu Asn Thr Ile Asn Phe Ser Glu Ser 1015  
 3528 TCT ACT GAA TTA GAT GTT GCA CAT AAC TGG ATA TTG GTT CCT CAA CTG ACT TCC ATG GAT TTA AAC ACA ATA ATT TTC AGC GAA AGC  
 His Ser Val Asp Ala Lys Tyr Ser Leu Lys Asn Ile Leu Ile Glu Gly Tyr Ala Arg Asp Ile His Tyr Gly Lys Ala Pro Asp Gly 1044  
 3615 CAC TCT GTT GAT GCA AAA TAC TCT CTA AAA ATT ATA TTA ATT GAA GCA TAT GCT AGA GAT ATT CAT ACT GGG AAG GCC CCT GAT GGT  
 Leu Ile Phe Arg Ala Phe Asn Lys Asn Tyr Ser Thr Asp Thr Leu Val Met Thr Ser Leu Asp Tyr Phe Glu Ile Lys Ala Tyr Pro 1073  
 3702 TTA ATC ATT AGA GGC TTT ATT AAA ATT TAC TCA ACT GAT CAT ATT TTG GTG ATG ACT TCC TTG GAC TAT TTT CAA ATA AAA GCG TAT CCT  
 Ser Ile Phe Asp Ser Thr Ser Asn Asp Thr Leu Leu Ser Ala Ser Glu Asn Lys Tyr Glu Ala Asn Thr Glu Glu Leu Glu 1102  
 3789 ACT ATT TTC AAC TTT ACT ACC TCA ATT GAC ACA TTA TTG TCT GCA TCC GAA AAC AAA TAT CAG GCT ATT ACC GAG GAA TTG GAG  
 Ser Ile Glu Val Pro Val Phe Lys Ile Asp Gly Ser Thr Ile Tyr Pro Arg Val Met Lys Ser Gly Asn Asn Lys Pro Met Leu Thr 1131  
 3876 AAC ATT GAG GTG CCA GTT TTT AAA ATT GAT GGA TCG ACC ATA TAT CCA AGC GTA ATG AAA TCT GGC AAC ATT AAC CCA ATG CTG ACC  
 Arg Lys His Ala Asp Ile Asn Ile Phe Thr Ile Ala Ser Gly Glu Leu Tyr Glu Lys Thr Ser Ile Met Ile Ala Ser Val Arg 1160  
 3963 AGA AAA CAT GCA GAT ATA ATT ATT TTT ACA ATT CCT ATT GCT ACT GGC CAA ATT TCA ACT ACC ATT ATG ATT GGC TCA GTC AGA  
 Lys His Asn Pro Ser Leu Thr Ile Lys Phe Trp Ile Leu Glu Asp Phe Val Thr Pro Glu Phe Lys His Leu Val Glu Ile Ser 1189  
 4050 AAA CAT AAC CCT ACC CTG ACA ATA AAA TTG TGG ATT TTG GAA GAT TTT GTG ACC CCA CAA TTC AAA CAC TTG CTA GAG ATT TCA  
 Ile Lys Tyr Asn Val Glu Tyr Glu Phe Ile Ser Tyr Lys Tpp Pro Asp Phe Leu Arg Lys Glu Lys Thr Lys Glu Arg Met Ile Trp 1218  
 4137 ATA AAG TAT ATT GTC GAA TAT TTT ATT ACT TAC AAA TCC CCC ATT TTC TTG AGA AAA CAC AAA ACC AAA GAA AGA ATT ATT TGG  
 Gly Tyr Lys Ile Leu Phe Leu Asp Val Leu Phe Pro Glu Asp Leu Asn Tyr Ile Ile Phe Ile Asp Ala Asp Glu Ile Cys Arg Ala 1247  
 4224 GGG TAT TAT ATT TTG TTT TTG GAC GTT TTG TTC CCA CAA GAT CTC AAC AAC ATT ATA TTG ATT GAC CCC GAT CAA ATA TCT AGG GCA  
 Asp Leu Thr Glu Leu Val Asn Met Asp Leu Glu Glu Ala Phe Gly Phe Thr Pro Met Cys Asp Ser Arg Glu Met Glu Gly 1276  
 4311 GAT TTG ACA GAA TTG CTT AAC ATG GAT CTT GAA GGT GCT CCA TAT GGT TTT ACT CCT ATT GTC GAT TCT CCT GAA GAA ATT GAA GGT  
 Phe Arg Phe Trp Lys Glu Cys Tyr Trp Ser Asp Val Leu Lys Asp Leu Lys Tyr His Ile Ser Ala Leu Phe Val Val Asp Leu 1305  
 4398 TTG AGA ATT TTG TGG AAA GAA GCA TAC TGG TCC GAT GTT TTG AAC GAT GAT TTG AAA ATT CAT ATT AGT GCA TTA TTT GTT GAT TTG  
 Glu Lys Phe Arg Ser Ile Lys Ala Cys Asp Arg Leu Arg Ala His Tyr Glu Lys Leu Ser Ser Asp Pro Asn Ser Leu Ser Asn Leu 1334  
 4485 CAA AAC TTG AGA TCT ATA AAA CCT GGA GAC AGA TTG AGA GCA CAC TAT CAA AAC ATT CCT TCT ACT GAT GAT CCA ATT TCG TTG ACC ATT TTA  
 Asp Glu Asp Leu Pro Asn Asn Met Glu Arg Leu Ile Lys Ile Phe Ser Leu Pro Glu Asn Trp Leu Trp Cys Glu Thr Trp Cys Ser 1363  
 4572 GAT CAA GAT TTG CCC ATT ATT ATG CAA ACA CTG ATA AAA ATT TTG ACT TTG CCT CCT GAA ATT TGG CTC TGG TCT GAT ACC TGG TCC TCA  
 Asp Lys Ser Leu Glu Asp Ala Lys Met Ile Asp Leu Cys Asn Asn Pro Leu Thr Arg Glu Asn Lys Leu Asp Ala Ala Lys Arg Leu 1392  
 4659 GAT AAA AAC TTG GAA GAT GCA AAA ATT GAT ATT GAT CCT TCC AAC ATT CCA TTA ACT AGA GAA ATT AAA TTA GAT GCT GCT AAC AGA TTG  
 Ile Pro Glu Trp Ile Glu Tyr Glu Glu Glu Ile Glu Pro Leu Val Ser Leu Val Glu Asn Thr Ala Lys Glu Val Val Glu Glu 1421  
 4746 ATC CCA GAA TTG ATT GAA TAC GAG CAA GAA ATT GAA CCT TTG GTC TCA TTA GTC GAA CAG ATT ATT ACC GGC AAA GAA CCT TTG CAA GAG  
 Ile Glu Ile Asp Thr Asp Gly Glu Glu Glu Glu Ile Glu Lys Glu Glu Glu Asn Asp Asp Phe Ile His Asp Glu Leu stop 1447  
 4833 ATA GAA ATT GAT ACA GAC GCA GAA CAA AAA CAA GAA ATT GAA GAT ATT GAT GAT GAT GAT TTT ATT CAC GAT GAA TTG TAA TTG TCA  
 4921 AGTCACATGGATAAATAGTGAGAACTCTGAAACCGCATTAATACCGACCTTGGTAGATATACTACATAATAGATAAATAGATAAGAGAGAAAAATGTTGGATTTTTC  
 5036 AGACTTCTCTCTCTCTGGGCCCTCCGGTTAACTATAATTTTTAAAGATTACACAAAATTCAACTACACGCCACTTCTTAAATTGAAAGCTCATANTCACTAAATGAA

Figure 1B.

Figure 2A.

**Figure 2 A (continued)**

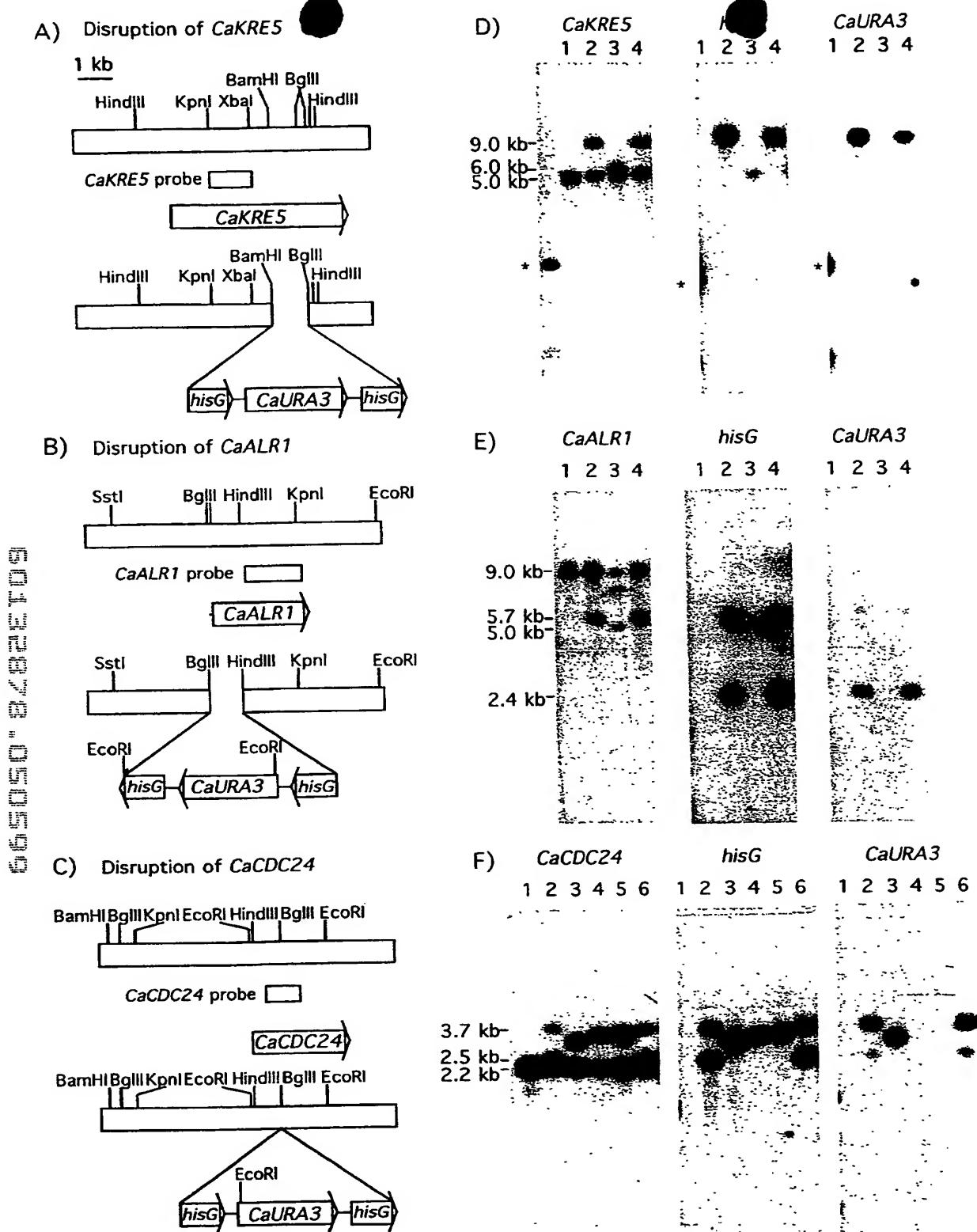
609132876 " 03510516949

Figure 2B.

Figure 3A.

Figure 3B.

CACDC24 1 MEKPPAALR EYST QSTVLSIHSVS TVSISRIVLQPVNINWNNKPSDPAVLTIRGCSKLLFQDQGHEPQHOTYSGAQSSEQGQHADALAOERSHNGH  
SccDC24 1 -----MAIQDPAVCESSISDLKPKF-----ATSIIPMOMWNNKPVQGQDLSHPTVCAVNRQEVLPDKPPELTSQSCWESEROSHLLSOKEGELLE  
SPCDC24 1 -----MEKPLQSPS-----QVYNEHPS-----HARCDNKKRLMDPSEALFDSYER-----DPAW-----  
  
CACDC24 101 SNGAERQSLDGFVWALIYGSDSSSISOGSLTTRVLTTHASRSLISGMPS-SHPLTPEFATVPPA MISTDQATELULIDFOQAFQVYLIGTILPDSQIPVWSS  
SccDC24 93 SNGAERDSSDAPTLRSL-----SISTATSLMSRIGISTTNSP SATPNMEDIETLQFSPMCLPITMDGDPVTOQSCLPQOGCPLCILTVKPSQVTPDVEIAS  
SPCDC24 53 -----S-----  
  
CACDC24 200 DDPD-----ICKKSIVVDFLIAVKTQ LNFQDDENMFEISNVS DNAQDLIGIXIDVIAEPLA-----SPASDLCGGGDEDVWNDVQITD-----PASKVPREI  
SccDC24 190 DDPD-----VCKKSIYDFIPLCCKRVAQNDDEZGFIISDVFAMSTISOLVAVLVEVPTLNSPTEFPSKEMTQQINNAEHDQFQQSKEKHEVYKMIKEF  
SPCDC24 101 VSLPENTNVCKLISVTPMNCRKECQLTDAALPSLSP-----TAPLVALEQHBLKXKPSVSH-----TQSSSTPEPSTDQVPTOTLSSLASGRVITAPL  
  
CACDC24 286 IETIERRKVQDLEI MCKVKRQDPLIEAEHESSEQIHLLEFPNHLHETIDFQRRFLNGLECHINIVDIFR XQKIGSVFIRASLGPFNAIEPWNIGQULTAIDLENKSA  
SccDC24 287 IETIERRKVQDLEI PDKVKRQDPLSHTITSELYLMLFPNLCDAIDFQRRFLISLEINALVLPX XQKIGALFMH3KX-FPRLIEPWSIGQAAKELSTLSE  
SPCDC24 199 IETIERRKVQDLEI LSNHIVLQGQKQIQLSQTPLSIFYNLKELIDDFQRRFLVGLERNLSEVE EQR-GALFIALEE-GFSVQVYCTNPHAQQLIDRQH  
  
CACDC24 386 KPK-----PDPGPFELQSTILVPIQKLCNTPFLKKELHISPRISQDPEGSNSSTSPH-----VATVATMHEELANQVNLVATVATMHEELANQVNLVATVATMHEELANQVNL  
SccDC24 386 KPK-----PDPGPFELQSTILVPIQKLCNTPFLKKELHISPRISQDPEGSNSSTSPH-----VATVATMHEELANQVNLVATVATMHEELANQVNLVATVATMHEELANQVNL  
SPCDC24 298 QPKLKVAN-----QPKLKVAN-----QPKLKVAN-----QPKLKVAN-----QPKLKVAN-----QPKLKVAN-----QPKLKVAN-----QPKLKVAN  
  
CACDC24 483 RGT NEDAQOGLLPT SQQVGVQVDAKX-----EKEIVATLFLKIVVFFPQIDDDNKKSDDEQKKKSVY STAK-----  
SccDC24 475 KGYATKSEGELEIPTDKVPTI STANSSSEPEREVV VILFERKIIILPSEVVKKKASSSLIKKXPSSTAS-----KASHITDNNHSP H8578KRG  
SPCDC24 385 KGYATKSEGELEIPTDKVPTI STANSSSEPEREVV VILFERKIIILPSEVVKKKASSSLIKKXPSSTAS-----KASHITDNNHSP H8578KRG  
  
CACDC24 563 SNSSSSNINICBSSS-----AAAIISSTNSSDWSNSNSNSNSLPELISANEPFLDLRGKIMINLNLXIPQNS-----ESLNWITBESI  
SccDC24 481 DPKBESVILKPNBESSEKLWNSVLNRLWKNESGSPKDPSAASPTANPVINASSSQTSGTNTSSDYLRLTBSLDENVNNSPTSISSPSSKSSPPTXTS  
  
CACDC24 661 -----KPGQFLKKFKKETTRDNNSQCLQQLIEDKXHEWPKARHESSTTISSTAKS5MMHSPPTINNTPNBSNSKUTEDSASFSSSEMKRKVSDVLPKKETSS  
SccDC24 581 KPTKSATTTDERPSDFIRLNSKESVOTSSKTSVATSTIVSDSSSTASIPQKISRISQVNSLLNDTINRQSHITRVISGZDDGSSVSTFEDTSSSTKQ  
  
CACDC24 741 SPSSEKXKISIISRFKX-----SIPESKILFPRISTHNSNNTSGSSKIXTSLVREKVNWUDGKMAINSNWT-----EHHNIS  
SccDC24 681 KXF DQPTTNDCDVMPRQTSYSA GKKSDGSLLPSTKETSLSSSSTSTGDSVRTNTVXKIRLLEKVSLSVUVVABDITFDEELAKVSKKICGILQAVP  
  
CACDC24 812 PTKKIKYQDEDGD FVVLGSDLDW MVAKEMLAENNEKPLHNLRY-----  
SccDC24 781 FVVELKVVDEDGD PTTTSDEDVLMATECTCFELMDPVBNKQMDTVSLVVVYF



**Figure 4**